

Decision Memo
Sunnyside Pitch 1 Adjustment
Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database: 57511
United States Forest Service
Salt Lake Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Salt Lake County, Utah
March 2020

This decision incorporates all information in this document and included in the project file.

1.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE

This document details my decision to authorize the proposal from Alta Ski Area to modify the gradient of Sunnyside Pitch 1 to a more skier friendly gradient of 12 to 16 percent by adding natural fill to the steep pitch with excess material from the Albion Parking Lot project. The Albion Parking lot project was modified to reduce its impact on a jurisdictional wetland area by reducing the fill area on the south side of the parking lot and increasing the cut on the north side of the parking lot. The excess cut material from the north side of the parking lot project would be transported approximately 350 feet to Sunnyside Pitch 1 and used to reduce the slope gradient of this pitch. The proposed area of disturbance is 0.80 acres. Approximately 6,100 cubic yards of fill material would be used to reduce the slope gradient.

Based on environmental analysis and input from an interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialists, I have determined that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. In particular, this action falls under **36 CFR 220.6(d)(5)** Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

The [Environmental Analysis Review section](#) documents rationale to support my finding that no extraordinary circumstances exist, along with findings required by other applicable laws and regulations to demonstrate compliance with the regulatory framework for the activities authorized by this decision. Specifically; the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Water Act; Congressional designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas; Inventoried Roadless Areas; Research Natural Areas; Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historical properties or areas; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898).

I find that the proposed action is fully consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The project is consistent with Recreation Desired Future Conditions in the Forest Plan, "Additional development....will generally involve the replacement and/or modification of existing facilities, modifications of existing ski runs, and adjustments to evolving technologies and user preference" (p. 4-161).

2.1 Design Criteria - The following Design Criteria will be required as part of this decision:

- Wetlands are present adjacent to the project area and have been delineated by ASL/Cirrus. Project has been designed to avoid this feature. Additional construction inspection/monitoring is recommended during implementation to ensure feature is not impacted. Silt fencing should be installed to ensure feature is protected from storm generated erosion/sedimentation during construction.
 - Top soil should be salvaged/placed on top of newly graded ski run to promote successful revegetation. Existing water bars should be reconstructed. Ski run should be seeded. Erosion control fabric should be installed.
 - Make sure the recreating public doesn't have access to the project site during the construction phases of the project. Place signs up notifying the public that construction is in progress once the project begins.
- Follow BMP's to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds (as applicable):
- All existing infestations within/adjacent to project area should be treated prior to project implementation.

- Do not stage equipment, materials, or crews in invasive plant populations.
- All equipment should be cleaned and free of vegetation, soil, and debris prior to beginning work on Forest Service land.
- Revegetation should be initiated as promptly as practical. Seed only where natural regeneration of desirable species is unlikely or is susceptible to or threatened by invasive or noxious plants. Seed mix will be approved by the Forest Service and certified weed free.
- For at least three years after project completion, treat invading noxious weeds as needed on areas impacted by ground disturbing operations.

Engineering

- Submit detailed design drawings that include site plan, architectural, structural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical requirements. Plans should include:
 - a. Site plan – location of proposed and existing structures and constructed features, utilities, related roads and parking areas, accessible routes to/from the proposed structures.
 - b. Geotechnical excavation and embankment plans – slope stability, placement and compaction requirements, etc.
 - c. Accessibility – information should include all required elements to adequately address and comply with applicable accessibility requirements (2004 ADA/ABA).
- The drawings must be stamped by the Professional Engineer and Architect responsible for the design, and must comply with all current building codes (IBC, IPC, IMC, NEC, etc.), standard, and other safety requirements.
- Submit geotechnical reports and slope stability analyses for the project. Geotechnical calculations must be stamped by the geotechnical engineer responsible for the design.
- If required, obtain the appropriate building permits from the local building permitting agency with jurisdiction prior to beginning work. Provide copy of permit or documentation of application for permit.

Schedule - Indicate approximate starting date for construction of the improvement(s) and/or related infrastructure. Provide a construction schedule for all elements that will be built.

- Implement ski area BMPs.

4.0 AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONS CONTACTED

The Forest Service conducted internal scoping with the interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialist at the September 2019 Small NEPA meeting and external scoping by entering the project into the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database (PALS).

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not subject to an administrative review process (Agriculture Act of 2014 [Pub. L. No. 113-79], Subtitle A, Sec. 8006). The project may be implemented immediately.

7.0 CONTACT PERSON

For additional information about the project, contact Ben Kraja (arben.kraja@usda.gov), (801) 733-2664.

DAVID WHITTEKIEND Digitally signed by DAVID WHITTEKIEND
Date: 2020.03.24 09:32:58 -06'00'

Dave Whittekiend
Forest Supervisor
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Date